

ash and wildfires that threaten communities.

In 1882 the U.S.S. ALBATROSS, the first government research vessel built exclusively for fisheries and oceanographic research, launched both a future for NOAA's research programs and a fleet of research vessels. Today, NOAA scientists along with their university partners, work to better understand the world in which we live. NOAA research is where much of the work is done that results in better weather forecasts, longer warning lead times for natural disasters, new products from the sea, and a greater understanding of our climate, atmosphere and oceans. NOAA research is done not only in what many would consider traditional laboratories, but also aboard ships, aloft in planes, and beneath the sea in the world's only undersea habitat. NOAA research tools can be as high-tech as supercomputers or as basic as rain gauges. The officers of the NOAA Corps operate NOAA's fleet of research vessels and aircraft. Those of us on the Commerce Committee like to think of NOAA as the little agency that does a lot. The NOAA Corps is an integral part of the NOAA team that brings all of these valuable services to the American public.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4883) was read the third time and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 321, and that the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 321) commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements regarding this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 321) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 321

Whereas the United States of America and Indian Tribes have a unique legal and political relationship as expressed in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes and Executive orders, court decisions, and course of dealing;

Whereas the United States has committed itself to national education excellence including excellence in institutions that educate American Indian and Alaska Native children and adults;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are fully accredited community-based educational institutions devoted to the education, welfare, and economic advancement of American Indian communities;

Whereas the populations in the communities served by tribal colleges and universities are among the poorest of the Nation, and the services provided by the tribal colleges and universities enable students to train for and obtain jobs that offer social and economic stability, and serve to reduce welfare dependence in these communities;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are chronically underfunded, and in addition to offering their communities higher education opportunities, also function as community centers, libraries, childcare centers, tribal archives, career and business centers, economic development centers, and public meeting places;

Whereas in 1970 President Nixon issued his now-famous "Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs" rejecting the failed policies of assimilation and termination and heralding the new era of Indian Self Determination;

Whereas in 1972 six tribal colleges established the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to empower its member institutions through collective action, construct a national support and communications network, and assist Indian communities and Native people in the field of educational achievement, while nurturing, advocating, and protecting American Indian history, culture, art and language;

Whereas the American Indian Higher Education Consortium consists of 32 tribal colleges and universities located in 12 states that enroll approximately 30,000 full- and part-time students from over 250 Federally-recognized Indian Tribes;

Whereas on July 3, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13270 ensuring that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized and integrated into the American family of institutions of higher education;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities provide access to information technology critical to full participation in American economic, political and social life, bridging great distances and transforming learning environment; and

Whereas tribal colleges and universities and their Native communities continue to play an integral role in American Indian education including assisting in the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate of the United States recognizes the essential role tribal colleges and universities play in American Indian communities, honors the vision and commitment of the founders of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and celebrates 30 successful years of implementing that vision for the benefit of American Indian peoples across the United States.

AMENDING THE AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1938

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 14, which was introduced earlier today by Senator THURMOND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 14) to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to extend the farm reconstitution provision to the 2003 and 2004 crops.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 14) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 14

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FARM RECONSTITUTIONS.

Section 316(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1314b(a)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended in the last sentence by striking "2002 crop" and inserting "2002, 2003, and 2004 crops".

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO SELL OR EXCHANGE ALL OR PART OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE SITES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2063, and that the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2063) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2063) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2063

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,